

UNIFORM STATE/AID/USIA FOREIGN SERVICE TRAVEL REGULATIONS

126 Special Travel

126.1 Advance Return of Family
Financed by Government

126.1-1 General

In certain cases, an employee's family may be authorized, before the employee's eligibility for travel, to return to his residence in the United States, its possessions and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

126.1-2 Conditions of Authorization

The Department of State, USIA, or the A. I. D. Mission Director or A. I. D. Representative may authorize advance travel of an employee's family members when the chief of mission or the head of the agency overseas establishment determines that the public interest requires the return of a member of the family for compelling personal reasons of a humanitarian or compassionate nature, including but not limited to cases which may involve physical or mental health or death of any member of the immediate family.

The Department or Agency in Washington may authorize advance travel of family members when there is an obligation imposed by an authority or circumstances over which the individual has no control. Advance travel may be authorized by the Department or Agency in Washington after family members have been at the post at least 6 months, under the following conditions:

- a. A child who is not eligible for educational travel (section 111.1) has been at a post abroad and educational needs (for the equivalent of grades 1 through 8 only) so require; or
- b. A child is over 21 years of age, unmarried, and traveled to the post before attaining such age.

126.1-3 Authorized Costs

Only one-way transportation will be authorized for advance return of family. If a family member subsequently travels at Government expense to the same or another post to which the employee is assigned, the total cost of the advance return and subsequent travel may not exceed the cost which would have been incurred had the family member traveled at the same time as the employee.

126.1-4 Repayment Agreement

Before any obligation of Government funds is incurred, the employee shall execute a repayment agreement in accordance with the form below. The original and one copy should be forwarded to the Department or USIA by operations memorandum, subject: PERSONNEL. For A. I. D., forward as attachment to an airgram.

REPAYMENT AGREEMENT
(Advance Travel of Family)

I, (name), certify that I have read and understand 6 FAM 126.1, and I hereby agree to repay the (Department of State, United States Information Agency, or Agency for International Development) for expenditures made by the (Department or Agency) in connection with the travel of my family to (place of residence in the United States its possessions, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) in the event and to the extent that such repayment becomes due under the provisions of the above-cited 6 FAM 126.1. In the event of my failure to make such repayment when required, I hereby authorize the deduction of such repayment from my salary, allowance, terminal leave, or other payment which may be or become due me.

(name)

(Title and Rank)

(Date)

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126.1-5 Repayment Requirements

The conditions under which repayment must be made by the employee for travel expenses borne by the Government in connection with the advance return of his family are as follows:

- a. The employee fails to complete the service period required for him to become eligible for travel and transportation at Government expense; or
- b. There is a change in marital or dependency status which cancels the family's eligibility for return to the United States, its possessions, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico at Government expense.

126.1-6 Liquidation or Refund of Repayment

If the employee is subsequently transferred, assigned, separated, or returned on leave at Government expense to the United States, its possessions, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the expenses of the advance travel become a proper obligation of the Government, the employee will be relieved of the obligation set forth in the repayment agreement to the amount of his allowable expenses (section 126.1-4). If the employee has previously made repayment, he may request and receive an appropriate refund.

126.2 Advance Travel of Family Financed by the Employee

- a. The employee may arrange for advance travel of his family, paying the cost initially himself and claiming reimbursement after he has been issued travel authorization which covers the travel of his family and after he has reached his eligibility date. Reimbursement is limited to the amounts payable had the family traveled at the same time as the employee.

* No reimbursement will be made for advance travel of an individual who has ceased to be a member of the employee's family through a change in marital or dependency status (except as provided in 126.3) prior to the date the employee becomes eligible for return travel and such travel has been authorized for him. *

If the advance travel of family was to the employee's temporary duty post and the employee was transferred to the post at the end of his TDY, he may claim reimbursement for expenses of allowable travel and transportation of family and effects which were incurred prior to the effective date of transfer of the employee and the date of his transfer travel authorization.

- b. For A. I. D. reimbursement may be made only if the family member had been at post for 12 months prior to commencement of travel and is listed on the travel authorization under which the employee is claiming reimbursement.

126.3 Return of Children Over 21 Years of Age

An employee's child who is unmarried and who is 21 years of age or older may be authorized return travel to the employee's place of residence for separation purposes in the United States, its possessions, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, provided the child, when he attained the age of 21, was at, or proceeding to, a post abroad to which the employee was assigned. The first travel authorization which is issued to the employee authorizing travel of the family after a child has reached the age of 21 constitutes authority for such travel. The return of the child to the United States should be completed within 1 year of the date the employee's travel begins. A child, 21 years or older, who proceeds to the employee's post under an educational travel authorization, may not be returned to the United States nor perform any travel at Government expense.

126.4 Travel of Family While Employee is on Temporary Duty En Route to Post of Assignment

When an employee is ordered to stop for temporary duty in the United States or abroad en route to his post of assignment, his family may be authorized by the Department or Agency to travel before, with, or after him via such stopover point; Provided, the family joins the employee at or accompanies him to or from such point. Per diem at the stopover point may be allowed for members of the family only during the period of temporary duty of the employee. (For A. I. D. this is subject to the provisions of section 156.7).